



Municipal Network for Disconnected Youth E-Newsletter August 2007, Volume IV, Issue 6

CITIES TO WATCH:

Florence, South Carolina: Mayoral leadership drives collaboration, outcomes

The Mayor's Coalition to Prevent Juvenile Crime, made up of private citizens, government officials, educators, business leaders, and local agencies from Florence, South Carolina, (pop. 131,000) utilized a ten step model called "Getting to Outcomes" which has guided collaborative strategies between and within partnering agencies for the last three years. Its key component is a resource matrix which identifies who is served and where program needs exist. The most successful of strategies have been after school programming, job placement services and parenting tips on how discuss difficult issues with children. Proving these strategies effective, this summer alone referrals to juvenile centers were 30% down, arbitrations reduced by 45% and 177 youth placed into jobs, out of 230 that also received job training skills. www.cityofflorence.com

Kansas City, Missouri: Sentenced to Art Program

Thanks to collaboration between the City of Kansas City, Missouri (pop 447,306), the Jackson County Family Court and ArtsTech Center, adolescent youth who have been adjudicated are provided a vehicle to express themselves in a creative and positive manner. The Sentenced to the Arts Project (STTAP) has been in operation for eight years, reaching over 700 participants per year and services are delivered through halfway homes, detention centers, community facilities, and public and private alternative schools. The assigned youth involve themselves in arts education, expressive therapy and community service, which also helps beautify the distressed neighborhoods in the city. For more information contact artstech@artstech-kc.org

NEWS AND RESOURCES:

Last Call! National Summit for Your City's Families- Sep. 30-Oct. 2

Registration continues but is filling fast for the nation's largest gathering of municipal leaders working to improve the lives of families and children in their communities. Several dynamic sessions focusing on disconnected youth issues will highlight strategies city leaders can adopt to reengage this important sector of our youth. Cities are encouraged to register as collaborative multi-agency teams to benefit fully from the summit. www.nlc.org/IYEF

Support available for cities to host dropout summits

America's Promise Alliance's is requesting proposals for 10 grants of up to \$10,000 to help communities plan and host high school drop out summits. Communities may opt to convene a cross section of key stakeholders to develop new action plans or advance existing plans to improve the local high school graduation rate. MNDY and the YEF Institute has considerable experience assisting and advising cities in conducting dropout summits and can provide sample agendas upon request. Summits must take place

within the 2007-2008 school year and the RFP deadline is **September 14th**. For more details and to receive an RFP, contact Chrystal Morris via e-mail at chrystalm@americaspromise.org. For sample summit agendas, contact Carlos Becerra at becerra@nlc.org.

Department of Labor grants advance dropout prevention

Six cities have received support to "blueprint" and implement systems that can connect young people who have dropped out of high school to alternative learning opportunities. Efforts will be focused on engaging youth in career preparation and encouraging them to pursue postsecondary education. This funding is intended to serve as a catalyst and will bring together community partners in Gary, Ind.; Des Moines, Iowa; Metairie, La.; Brockton, Mass.; Fall River, Mass.; and Pittsburgh, Pa.

OTHER RESOURCES:

Annual Teen Survey is a Wake up Call for Parents and Communities

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University recently released the findings from its 12th annual teen survey: *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XII: Teens and Parents*. For the first time, CASA conducted an in-depth survey of the drug situation in our nation's schools. The survey found: 80% of high school students and 44 % of middle school students see drugs used, kept, sold; and/or classmates drunk and/or high on school grounds. These striking trends make a greater case for increased, personal engagement with students on the issue of substance abuse by parents, teachers and others they trust, the study found. For more results and information on this survey, visit their website: www.casacolumbia.org

A One-Stop-Shop for Measuring Youth Outcomes

The United Way has released a free, Web-based directory to help professionals in youth-serving programs find measurement tools for up to 11 youth outcome areas. All tools address one or more of the outcome areas, are tested and have few restrictions. Tools included in this database address elementary, middle and/or high school students and youth, parent, staff and teacher respondents. <http://www.toolfind.org/>

Service-learning grants for foster youth transitions

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Youth Service America (YSA) are pleased to announce YouthPower grants of up to \$1,000 to support youth-led service projects. These grants support youth in foster care (ages 5-18) and youth who have recently transitioned out of foster care (ages 19-25) in planning and implementing service projects in their community. www.servenet.org

National League of Cities, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families

For more information about the

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